

can do absolutely nothing unless the Congress appropriates the money for the military's use. It was precisely that restraint on the warmaking power which forced Bill Clinton to abandon his disastrous adventure in Somalia.

Mr. Speaker, coming to Congress after a decision has been made to engage in full scale military operations abroad is an affront to the Constitution and a threat to our soldiers. I don't care what Bill Clinton pollsters tell him. The momentous issue of war and peace is too dangerous to be left to one publicity hungry chief executive.

To paraphrase a great military mind, "Bosnia is the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time." Bill Clinton, who spent his college and Oxford years tearing down the American military and damning his country overseas obviously learned nothing from his experiences during Vietnam. It is long past time that he read the simple but powerful words of the Constitution. He must either get the people on his side or pull out now.

#### FREE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we are 11 days before another possible shutdown of the Federal and the District Government and I am forced to come to the floor of the House every day trying to keep this from happening, at least in the District. I recognize now that there will probably be at least a short-term CR, so that 10 days before Christmas there is not a Federal Government shutdown, but I hope to impress upon my colleagues that a short-term CR will not help the District much because it is a city and not a Federal agency.

As we saw from the starts and stops of preparing for the last shutdown, it does not help a city to give it a short-term CR. I ask my colleagues to put themselves in the position of my constituents, who have paid their taxes, who are second per capita in Federal taxes in the United States, and their money is up here in the appropriations. Eighty percent of it is their money, and there is the possibility that the Congress would shut down on their money, or put them on a CR on their money.

Tomorrow, the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman TOM DAVIS, has agreed to a hearing on a bill that would allow the District to spend its own money in the case of government shutdowns, remembering that we are not HUD or HHS—we are a city, like the cities my colleagues represent. We are caught in the middle of someone else's fight. The District is in grave financial stress. It is important to let us out so that we can continue to rebuild this city.

Mr. Speaker, this morning's Washington Times reports some distressing

news, and I am quoting. "A paralyzing dispute over school vouchers has so divided Republicans that some are concerned the District will not receive an annual spending bill for the first time since the advent of home rule."

I say to my GOP colleagues who are in charge now, every year for 40 years that the Democrats were in charge, they got 13 appropriations out. It is now the GOP's responsibility to get 13 appropriations out, including the District's. Instead, what we have brewing is a major constitutional fight on the back of the weakest of the 13 appropriations, the smallest of the 13 appropriations—the D.C. appropriations.

I ask my colleagues, is it fair to hold up our appropriation over a fight, a constitutional fight, over vouchers for private and religious schools? This is a worthy question, but it deserves a hearing. It deserves exposure, major exposure, if my colleagues mean to depart from 200 years of American history.

Instead, we are told, again in the Washington Times this morning, that the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] currently holds the votes to bury any voucher program under a filibuster. Imagine filibustering our appropriation over matters that have nothing to do with the District. This proposal on vouchers and on educational reform was meant to help us. It is hurting us now very much. Get it off our backs.

If the GOP wants to do this, if they want to help us, let them do it the right way and not hold up money that the District needs desperately simply to run the city. We already have an agreement on the amount of our appropriation. It involves a cut, by the way. So everything is in order except an extraneous issue involving vouchers.

There is also an abortion issue. But the issue that is really holding our money up, threatening to shut the city down, threatening to put us on short-term continuing resolutions, is not an issue affecting the 600,000 people I represent. They deserve better. They deserve a whole lot better.

According to the Washington Times, Mr. Speaker, "Longtime observers and those involved in the process say negotiating a District spending bill is often tough, but the House and the Senate have always worked out their differences in one sitting." We are having the third sitting today and we are nowhere near to a solution on whether or not 600,000 people, many of them the hardest working people one could ever find, will get their own money out of the Congress.

Our money should not be up here in the first place. There was a whole revolution over charging people taxes without allowing them to have a say in how to spend their own money. The 80 percent I am talking about was raised in the District of Columbia from District taxpayers. Most Americans do not know that. My constituents know it. They are tired of being held up here

over the fight between the executive and the Congress of the United States. They understand that to be a worthy fight that has to be fought out, but surely no one believes that we should be punished by disallowing us the flexibility to spend our own money.

Mr. Speaker, there are over-obligation prospects out there because if we are given a 1-month CR, there are mandates such as AFDC. There are mandates such as payroll. We cannot guarantee we will get through those mandates. Free the District appropriation.

#### DEAD BROKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the House's attention a front page article from the December 3, 1995, Minneapolis edition of the Star Tribune title, "Dead Broke," about how gamblers are killing themselves, bankrupting their families, and costing Minnesota millions. Let me read from this compelling article:

In less than a decade, legalized gambling in Minnesota has created a broad new class of addicts, victims and criminals whose activities are devastating families and costing taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars.

Thousands have ruined themselves financially, some have committed crimes, and a handful have killed themselves. Thousands more will live for years on the edge of bankruptcy, sometimes working two or three jobs to pay off credit-card debt.

The Star Tribune said these people include Minnesotans such as:

Catherine Avina of St. Paul, an assistant attorney general who killed herself with an overdose of antidepressants after a 4-day gambling binge. The mother of three had been fired just a few days earlier, and left debts of more than \$7,000 and \$600 in bounced checks.

John Lee, a 19-year-old St. Paul college student who lost \$8,000 in two nights at a casino. He returned home, kicked down the door to his apartment, put the barrel of a shotgun to his head, and killed himself.

Lam Ha of Blaine, a father of two and waiter at a restaurant. Last year, he and his wife filed for bankruptcy protection with a \$76,000 debt, much of it on 25 credit cards. They listed gambling losses of \$40,000 in 1994 alone, more than their joint annual income.

Reva Wilkinson of Cedar, who is in prison for embezzling more than \$400,000 from the Guthrie Theater to support her habit. Her case cost taxpayers more than \$100,000 to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate.

According to the article, the costs of gambling include the following: 38,000 probable addicted gamblers in Minnesota; 100,000 people with increasing gambling problems; 6 confirmed gambling related suicides; more than 140 confirmed suicide attempts since 1992; more than 1,000 people per year declaring bankruptcy; \$400,000 per year in

welfare benefits withdrawn from casino ATM's and \$200 to \$300 million in estimated annual social costs—taxes, lost wages, and debts.

The article also reported that some \$39,000 a month in welfare benefits from Hennepin and Ramsey counties is being withdrawn from automatic teller machines in casinos. In September, there were 769 withdrawals of public-assistance benefits using cash machines at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake. Seventeen pawn shops have opened near casinos in the State. Several owners said they get 50 percent of their business from gamblers.

Ten years ago, there was one Gamblers Anonymous group meeting in the State. Today, there are 49. Calls to the State Compulsive Gambling Hotline doubled from 1992 to 1994, reaching nearly 500 per month.

Between 1988 when the first of the State's 17 casinos began operating and 1994, counties with casinos saw the crime rate rise twice as fast as those without casinos. The median change in counties with casinos was a 39-percent increase, compared with an 18-percent increase in noncasino counties.

And, in the face of rising crime, pathological gambling, increased bankruptcies, and broken families, what are political leaders doing? The Star Tribune says they have been silent mostly because there is a lack of credible information on the subject. The article said:

Political leaders—even those who have taken an interest in gambling issues—acknowledge they know little about the problem. There has been no comprehensive study of the social costs—the debt, crime, and suicides associated with gambling. The state does not know what kind of treatment works, or how successful the programs it funds have been.

Assistant Attorney General Alan Gilbert, a member of the State Advisory Council on Gambling, and "But I think common sense tells you that there has to be some adverse effects. \* \* \* We just don't know the extent of it."

Mr. Speaker, public officials in Minnesota are not alone. Public officials in Virginia, Louisiana, and States across America don't have the information they need to make informed decisions about gambling policy.

That is why I have introduced, and 126 Members of the House have cosponsored, H.R. 497, the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission Act. This legislation would charge a blue-ribbon panel with the duty of looking at all the social costs described by the Star Tribune so that America's policymakers and citizens know what the impact of legalized gambling may be.

Mr. Speaker, the House Judiciary Committee ordered H.R. 497 reported by voice vote and the report could be filed as early as this week. I urge members who have not yet cosponsored to cosponsor this important legislation so we can rationally determine whether or not, as the Star Tribune headline puts it, America is going "Dead Broke."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD immediately following my statement an Associated Press article which summarizes the three-page Star Tribune special report, as follows:

MINNEAPOLIS.—Legalized gambling in Minnesota has created a new class of addicts, victims and criminals, devastating families and costing taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars, a published report says.

According to the report in Sunday's Star Tribune, thousands of Minnesotans have ruined themselves financially, some have committed crimes, and a handful have killed themselves because of gambling problems.

Thousands more will live for years on the edge of bankruptcy, sometimes working two or three jobs to pay off high-interest credit-card debts, the newspaper said.

Political leaders acknowledge they know little about the problem, or about the social costs of problem gambling such as debt, crime and suicides, the Star Tribune said.

"The social costs really haven't been assessed very accurately, and they certainly haven't been quantified at this point," said Assistant Attorney General Alan Gilbert, a member of the state Advisory Council on Gambling. "But I think common sense tells you that there has to be some adverse effects. . . . We just don't know the extent of it."

Minnesota's problem gamblers are mostly middle-class people whose appetite for wagering grew from office football pools or church bingo to pulltabs, racetracks, lotteries and casinos when state and federal governments began, legalizing them in the mid-1980s, the newspaper said.

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Catherine Avina of St. Paul, an assistant attorney general who killed herself with an overdose of antidepressants after a four-day gambling binge. The mother of three had been fired just a few days earlier, and left debts of more than \$7,000 and \$600 in bounced checks.

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The newspaper said even conservative estimate of the social costs of problem gambling suggest that it costs Minnesotans more than \$200 million per year in taxes, lost income, bad debts and crime. An estimated \$4.1 billion is legally wagered in the state each year, it said.

Two independent surveys last year estimated that the number of people who have experienced significant problems because of gambling doubled from 1990 to 1994 and now exceeds 100,000. One of those studies also concluded that there are about 38,000 people in the state with serious gambling addictions.

The problem has taken a toll on a larger-scale level as well. In a report today, the newspaper said the 14 Minnesota counties with casinos in them are experiencing a significantly faster growth in the crime rate than are counties without casinos.

Between 1988 when the first of the state's 17 casinos began operating and 1994, counties with casinos saw the crime rate rise twice as

fast as those without casinos. The median change in counties with casinos was a 39 percent increase, compared with an 18 percent increase in non-casino counties, the paper said.

In Sunday's report, the newspaper listed several indicators of the scope of Minnesota's gambling problem. Among them:

More gamblers are going bankrupt. It said there is evidence that more than 1,000 people a year are filing for bankruptcy protection in cases involving gambling losses.

Gamblers are committing suicide. The newspaper found six people with gambling problems who had committed suicide since 1991, five of them in the past two years. At least 140 gamblers have attempted suicide, it said. The real numbers are probably much higher, it said.

Credit counselors are seeing increasing numbers of gamblers with seemingly insurmountable debts.

Some \$39,000 a month in welfare benefits from Hennepin and Ramsey counties is being withdrawn from automatic teller machines in casinos. In September, there were 769 withdrawals of public-assistance benefits using cash machines at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake.

Ten years ago, there was one Gamblers Anonymous group meeting in the state. Today, there are 49.

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#### BALANCED BUDGET DEBATE IS A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about the budget. The budget. Now, first of all, all of the appropriations bills were due on September 30. A year ago at this time, we had them all done, they were all signed and that was the end of it.

So, we are now 66 days after the date that they were all due, and they are not done yet. We are still operating under this temporary thing. We had one government shutdown that was, I think, an absolute debacle, in which the Federal taxpayers paid \$700 million more and got less, because they paid for people to be at work and they were not at work. They wanted to be at work, but they were not allowed to be at work.

Mr. Speaker, that is really nuts. We are looking very much again at whether or not we are going to have another one of these in 10 days, or are we going to punt it until after the holidays and start this whole thing after the beginning of the new year?

What in the world happened between last year and this year that has got us running round and round and round, screaming, yelling and hollering and looking like a third-rate "I-don't-know-what," but we certainly do not look like any superpower legislature.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a pathetic performance. I think taxpayers are angry with everybody in Washington.